

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0020

HLC DATE:

May 24, 2010

PC DATE:

July 13, 2010

APPLICANTS: Valerie and Michael Weynand

HISTORIC NAME: Paul J. Thompson House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 1507 Wooldridge Drive

ZONING FROM: SF-3 to SF-3-H

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from family residence (SF-3) district to family residence – historic landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

The ca. 1937 Paul J. Thompson House qualifies for landmark designation for its architectural and historical significance. The house was designed by prominent Austin architect Roy Thomas and is an excellent example of Colonial Revival style. The house is associated with Paul J. Thompson, the director of the School of Journalism at the University of Texas, under whose leadership the School was established, and the Daily Texan became one of the country's leading student newspapers.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from family residence (SF-3) district to family residence – historic landmark (SF-3-H) combining district zoning. Vote: 6-0 (Leary ill).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is beyond the bounds of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

Architectural Description:

Two-story rectangular-plan side-gabled Colonial Revival-styled brick house with a central entry framed with fluted pilasters and a segmental-arched pediment containing dentils. The house is 5 bays wide with a symmetrical composition. Windows were originally 6:6 configuration; they have been replaced with 1:1 windows. The house was designed by Roy Thomas, a prominent local architect who designed many houses in the Colonial Revival style, as well as other period styles in the 1930s and 1940s.

Historical Associations:

The house was built in 1937 for Paul J. and Bess Thompson. Thompson, a native of Illinois, graduated from high school in Missouri and the University of Missouri. He came to Austin in 1919 to teach advertising at the University of Texas. He was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Department of Journalism at the University of Texas after Governor Ma Ferguson cut all funding to the department. Under his guidance, the Department of Journalism became the School of Journalism, and became a role model for standards of excellence for national journalism school accreditation. The Daily Texan became one of the most highly regarded student newspapers in the country under his direction. He was also instrumental in the construction of the School of Journalism Building on campus. Professor Thompson taught at UT for 45 years; he retired in 1959 and passed away in 1964. The house passed out of the Thompson family in 1966. The current owners, Michael and Valerie Weynand, purchased the house in 1995.

PARCEL NO.: 01150108020000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The West Central 85 feet of the North 168.9 feet of the Josephine L. Fisher Reservation

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$16,659 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,633 (capped).

APPRAISED VALUE: \$1,251,111

PRESENT USE: Residence

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS:

Michael and Valerie Weynand
1507 Wooldridge Drive
Austin, Texas 78703

DATE BUILT: ca. 1937

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Additions were made to the house in 1966, 1980, and 2009. The windows have been replaced. Historic photographs show 6:6 Colonial Revival-styled windows on the front of the house; these have been replaced with 1:1 windows.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Paul J. and Bess Thompson (1937)


OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.





LOCATION MAP



Legend

§  SUBJECT TRACT

 PENDING CASE

 ZONING

HISTORIC ZONING

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2010-0020
 ADDRESS: 1507 WOOLDRIDGE DR
 AREA: .3710 AC.
 GRID: H24
 CASE MGR: S. SADOWSKY



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference.
 No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

Paul J. Thompson 1507 Wooldridge Dr.
89x154

158

Josephine L. Fisher

2-story brick veneer res. & box gar.

197n - 7-29-37

3-24-77----#163166 Charles Crites owner
frm acc bldg, not to be used for living purposes
\$8,000.00

Building permit to Paul J. Thompson for the construction for the house and garage (1937)

Connection Charge \$ 12.00 N^o 13893B
Application for Sewer Connection.
Austin, Texas, 12-13 193 7
To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas
Sir:—
I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by Paul J. Thompson
at 1507 Wooldridge Dr Street,
further described as lot B, block 89x154,
subdivision J. L. Fisher, division 158,
which is to be used as a Res
In this place there are to be installed 6 fixtures.
I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.
13 DEEP Respectfully,
ATL:PL W. R. Long III
Stub Out
Connected 12-20 193 7 Permit OK
Size of Main 6 inches. 12/13/37
Size of Service 4 inches. OK 12-13-37
4 Feet Deep in 9T LB
29 Feet from Property Line
11 1/2 Feet from Curb Line. con 5' 2" W
Inspected by Bright of EPL
Connection made by Therco 4-811

Sewer service connection to Paul J. Thompson (1937)

OWNER	W. R. Long III	ADDRESS	1507 Wooldridge
PLAT	158	LOT	B
			BLK ²
SUBDIVISION	Pemberton Hts Sec 1		
OCCUPANCY	Bedroom & Bath		
BLD PERMIT #	101303	DATE	10-25-66
		OWNERS ESTIMATE	3,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Andrew S. Patton	NO. OF FIXTURES	3
WATER TAP REC #		SEWER TAP REC #	
Frame Addition up Stairs to Brick Residence			

Building permit to W.R. Long for the construction of an upstairs addition (1966)

OWNER	Mr & Mrs. Charles Crites	ADDRESS	1507 Woolridge Dr.		
PLAT	158	LOT	B	BLK	2
SUBDIVISION	Pemberton Hts. Sec. I				
OCCUPANCY	Addn to res.				
BLDG. PERMIT #	193484	DATE	3-25-80	OWNERS ESTIMATE	30,000.00
CONTRACTOR	Hudson Cosnt	NO. OF FIXTURES			
WATER TAP REC#	SEWER TAP REC#				
Addn to res & remodel					
176 sq.ft.					

Building permit to Charles Crites for the construction of an addition (1980)

A. APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC ZONING

OK to go
55
4-6-10

PROJECT INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY	
APPLICATION DATE: <u>04/29/10</u>	FILE NUMBER(S): <u>C144-2010-0020</u>
TENTATIVE HLC DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE PC or ZAP DATE: _____	
TENTATIVE CC DATE: <u>130</u>	
CASE MANAGER: <u>S. Pape</u>	CITY INITIATED: YES / NO
APPLICATION ACCEPTED BY: <u>S. Pape</u>	ROLLBACK: YES/NO

BASIC PROJECT DATA:

1. OWNER'S NAME: <u>Valerie & Michael Weynand</u>	
2. PROJECT NAME: <u>The Paul J. Thompson House</u>	
3. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (or Range): <u>1507 Woodbridge</u>	
ZIP: <u>78703</u> COUNTY: <u>Travis</u>	
IF PROJECT ADDRESS CANNOT BE DEFINED ABOVE:	
LOCATED _____ FRONTAGE FEET ALONG THE N. S. E. W. (CIRCLE ONE) SIDE OF	
APPROXIMATELY _____ (ROAD NAME PROPERTY FRONTS ONTO), WHICH IS	
INTERSECTION WITH _____ DISTANCE FROM ITS	
CROSS STREET.	

AREA TO BE REZONED:

Grid H24 Watershed-Shoal Creek Class Urban
DP Windsor

4. ACRES <u>0.3710</u>	(OR)	SQ.FT. _____
5. ZONING AND LAND USE INFORMATION:		
EXISTING ZONING <u>SF-3</u>	EXISTING USE <u>Residence</u>	TRACT# (IF MORE THAN 1) _____
ACRES / SQ. FT. _____	PROPOSED USE <u>Residence</u>	PROPOSED ZONING <u>SF-3-14</u>

RELATED CURRENT CASES:

6. ACTIVE ZONING CASE? (YES / <u>NO</u>)	FILE NUMBER: _____
7. RESTRICTIVE COVENANT? (YES / <u>NO</u>)	FILE NUMBER: _____
8. SUBDIVISION? (YES / <u>NO</u>)	FILE NUMBER: _____
9. SITE PLAN? (YES / <u>NO</u>)	FILE NUMBER: _____

SCANNED

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. SUBDIVISION REFERENCE: Name: Pemberton Heights
Block(s) _____ Lot(s) _____ Outlot(s) _____
Plat Book: _____ Page W Cen 85 ft. of N 168.09 ft Fisher
Number: _____ Josephine L. Representation
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER AND TAX PARCEL I.D.:

11. VOLUME: 12365 PAGE: 00908 TAX PARCEL I.D. NO. 01150108020000

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES ☐ NO ☒
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) _____
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES ☐ NO ☒
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? YES ☐ NO ☒ (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY: _____
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S): _____

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. ☒ SOLE ☐ COMMUNITY PROPERTY ☐ PARTNERSHIP ☐ CORPORATION ☐ TRUST
If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION:

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: Valerie Weynand NAME: Valerie & Michael Weynand
FIRM NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 914-9716
STREET ADDRESS: 1507 Woodbridge
CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78703
EMAIL ADDRESS: Valweynand@Sbcglobal.net

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION
SIGNATURE: Suzanne Decker NAME: Suzanne Decker
FIRM NAME: Historic Research & Representation TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
STREET ADDRESS: 2502 Harris Blvd.
CITY: Austin STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 78703
CONTACT PERSON: _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER: 923-1414
EMAIL ADDRESS: Suzanne@grande.com.net

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:

Revised February 15, 2005

SCANNED

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

S. Deaderick 4-5-10
Signature Date
Suzanne Deaderick
Name (Typed or Printed)
Historic Research & Restoration
Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Valerie Weyand 4/18/04
Signature Date
Valerie Weyand
Name (Typed or Printed)

Firm (If applicable)

SCANNED

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, Suzanne Deaderick have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

1507 Wooldridge
(Address or Legal Description)
Austin, Tx. 78703

If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

S Deaderick
(Applicant's signature)

4-5-10
(Date)

SCANNED

TAX CERTIFICATE
Nelda Wells Spears
Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-9473

NO 1054987

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 01-1501-0802-0000

PROPERTY OWNER:

WEYNAND MICHAEL J & VALERIE
VALERIE WEYNAND
1507 WOOLDRIDGE DR
AUSTIN, TX 78703-2531

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

W CEN 85FT OF N 168.09FT FISHER JO
SEPHINE L RESERVATION

ACRES .0000 MIN% .000000000000 TYPE

SITUS INFORMATION: 1507 WOOLDRIDGE DR

This is to certify that after a careful check of tax records of this office, the following taxes, delinquent taxes, penalties and interests are due on the described property of the following tax unit(s):

YEAR	ENTITY	TOTAL
2009	AUSTIN ISD	*ALL PAID*
	CITY OF AUSTIN (TRAV)	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY	*ALL PAID*
	TRAVIS COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	*ALL PAID*
	ACC (TRAVIS)	*ALL PAID*

TOTAL SEQUENCE 0

ALL PAID

TOTAL TAX:
UNPAID FEES:
INTEREST ON FEES:
COMMISSION:
TOTAL DUE ==>

ALL PAID
* NONE *
* NONE *
* NONE *
ALL PAID

TAXES PAID FOR YEAR 2009 \$21,434.20

ALL TAXES PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO AND INCLUDING THE YEAR 2009 EXCEPT FOR UNPAID YEARS LISTED ABOVE.

The above described property may be subject to special valuation based on its use, and additional rollback taxes may become due. (Section 23.55, State Property Tax Code).

Pursuant to Section 31.08 of the State Property Tax Code, there is a fee of \$10.00 for all Tax Certificates.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THIS DATE OF 04/09/2010

Fee Paid: \$10.00

Nelda Wells Spears
Tax Assessor-Collector

By:

Christina Cuda

SCANNED

**Deed Chronology
1507 Wooldridge**

Transaction	Volume/Page	Date
Josephine Lucille Fisher to Paul J. and Bess Thompson	559/388	1-6-1937
Adrain L. Park (son-Bess Park Thompson) to W.R. Long III and Carol Tyler Long	3190/2160	10-1-66
W.R. Long III and Carol Tyler Long to Charles R. & Mildred Crites	5647/819	12-1-76
Mildred Holmes Crites to Charles Robert Crites	11352/1242	1-14-1991
Charles Robert Crites to Donna McCutcheon & John S. Grainger	12068/2231	11-15-1993
Donna McCutcheon & John S. Grainger to Michael J. & Valerie Weynand		1-30-1995

Chronological Listing of Owners/Occupants
1507 Wooldridge

City Directory Research
April 2010

1937	No listing for 1507 Wooldridge Note: Paul Thompson and wife Bess listed at 707 W. 31st St. U.T. Professor
1939	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1941	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1947	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1949	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1952	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1954	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1957	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1960	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1962	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-U.T. Professor
1964	Paul J. Thompson (Bess)-Director U.T. Note: George F. West (Jeanne)-Engineer Hunter Eng. Residence: 2104 Bowman
1965	George F. West (Jeanne)-owner Engineer @ Hunter Eng.
1966	George F. West (Jeanne)-owner Texas Highway Dept.
1967	William R. Long III-Owner Assistant Attorney University of Texas Note: No listing for George West

SCANNED

1968	William R. Long III-Owner Assistant Attorney University of Texas Note: No listing for George West
1974	Robert W. Long III (Carol)-Owner Trust Officer @ the U.T. System
1976	Robert W. Long III (Carol)-Owner Trust Officer @ the U.T. System
1977	Robert W. Long III (Carol)-Owner Trust Officer @ the U.T. System
1978	Charles R. Crites (Milly)-Owner Investments
1981	Charles R. Crites (Milly)-Owner Investments
1984	Charles R. Crites (Milly)-Owner Investments-114 W. 7th Street #717
1987	Charles R. Crites (Milly)-Owner Investments-114 W. 7th Street #717
1990	Brian Bailey (No business listing)
1992	Charles R. Crites-owner No business listing

SCANNED

The Paul J. Thompson House
1507 Wooldridge

The Paul J. Thompson House was built around 1937 or 1938 by Roy Thomas for Paul and Bess Thompson. Thomas designed a number of important Austin buildings from the 1920s through the 1950s. One of his first jobs was serving as resident architect for the Austin Hotel on Congress Avenue just south of the Capitol Building. The Herbert Bohn House at 1301 W. 29th Street, a modernistic Art Deco stucco residence sited over Shoal Creek, is one of his most memorable designs. Other works include the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Robert E. Lee Elementary School, Tarrytown Methodist Church, and Ebenezer Baptist Church.

For almost 30 years and until his death, Paul and Bess Thompson lived in the house. Before building this home, the Thompsons lived at 707 W. 31st. Sometime after Mildred and Charles Crites bought the house in 1976, noted landscape architect Coatsworth Pinkney redesigned the grounds for the house.

Biography of Paul J. Thompson

He was called the *Godfather of Journalism* and *Mr. Journalism of Texas*, and his pioneering efforts led to the growth and establishment of the School of Journalism at the University of Texas.

In 1890, Paul J. Thompson was born in Quincy, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Missouri in 1914. After serving in World War I, Thompson worked on newspapers in Missouri, Iowa and Montana before deciding to teach. He came to the University of Texas in 1919.

In the years leading up to 1925, the journalism school at U.T. would land in the crossfire of a political battle waging between then-Texas governor James Ferguson and Dean William Mayes, who had been the organizer and director of the School of Journalism since it was established in 1913. Dean Mayes had been one of those whom Gov. Ferguson earlier demanded be dismissed from the University faculty, and Gov. Ferguson's fight with the University administration had been an important factor in his impeachment in 1917. Subsequently, Governor "Ma" Ferguson's disastrous cuts in appropriations wiped out the Journalism department, so when Thompson arrived in 1919, he began teaching advertising in the School of Business Administration.

Thompson became the guiding influence that brought the Department of Journalism back into being and was made chairman of the Department in 1927. The Department evolved into the School of Journalism. Thompson served as head of the school for 31 years until retiring to director of emeritus in 1958.

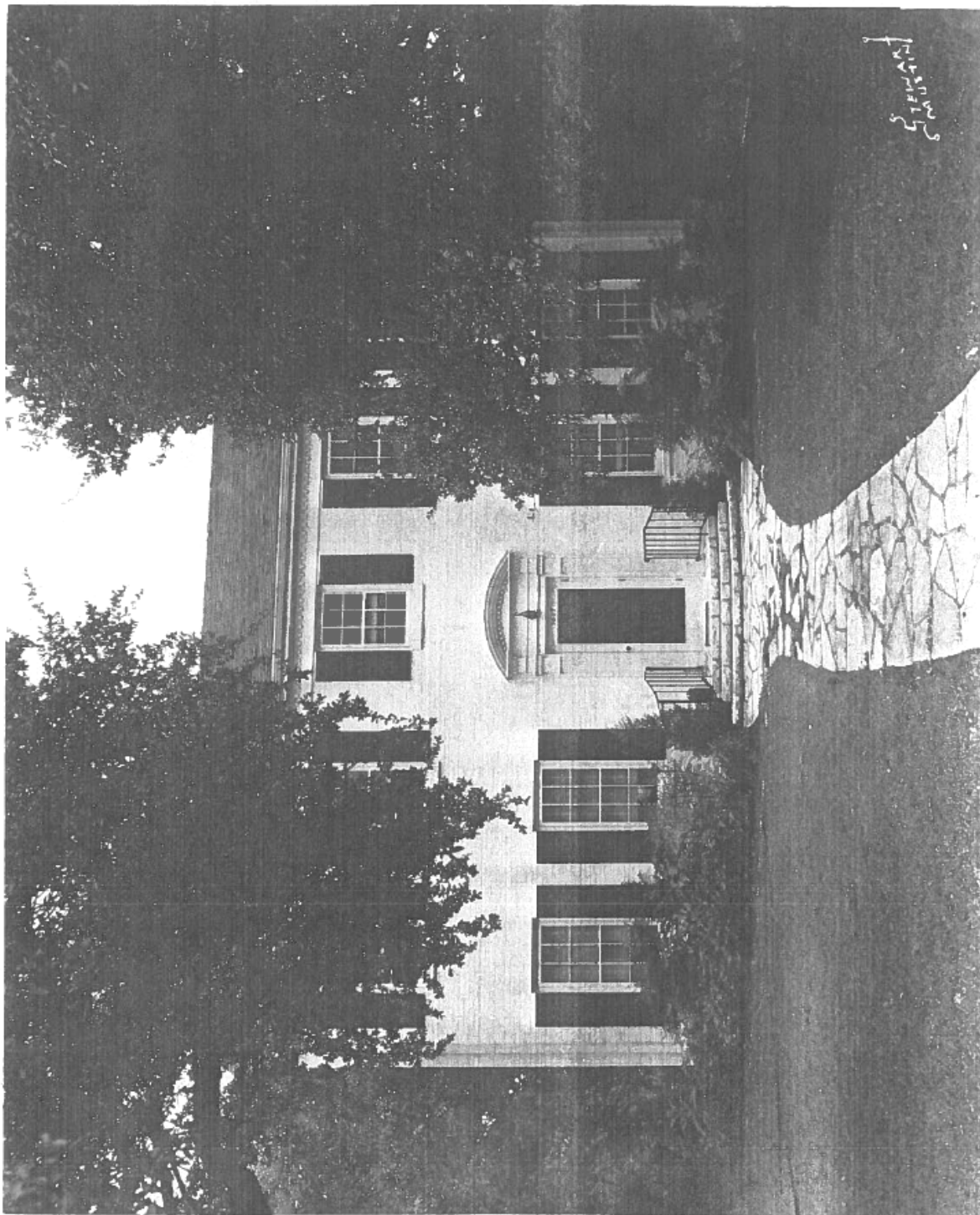
One of Thompson's proudest achievements was the construction of the new journalism building on the U.T. campus. In order to insure that the dedication ceremony of the new building would not be stuffy, Thompson brought Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, editor of Argentina's famous *La Prensa*, to speak. Dr. Paz had been forced into exile because of Dictator Peron's suppression of freedom of the press. The dedication of the new building took place in 1952 with Dr. Paz speaking on "Journalism in the Fight for Freedom."

Dr. DeWitt C. Reddick, who became director after Thompson's retirement, said of Thompson: "The School of Journalism at the University is the creation of Paul J. Thompson. From 1919, the school was the center of his professional life--he dedicated himself to its development. There are thousands of journalism ex-students in prominent places on newspapers and magazines and in advertising agencies throughout the country whose lives have been strengthened through association in the classroom with Mr. Thompson."

Austin History Center

1507 Woolbridge

Roy Thomas
architect



Journalism Godfather

By MARY GRESHAM

To rear a child is not an easy task. But Paul J. Thompson, director of the School of Journalism, has to his credit the rearing of some 1,600 young men and women in the last thirty-one years.

The success of the quiet, reserved professor cannot be measured in terms of professionalism alone. It is based on a hard-to-achieve accomplishment of winning and maintaining the devotion and respect of students, ex-students, and fellow workers.

With love and devotion comparable to that of a father, he guides his students in professional careers. Such ex-students as Margaret Cousins, managing editor of Good Housekeeping, attributes the joy of her work to early training.

And, like a father, he is concerned with his students' preparation for life in general.

Because of his high professional standards and his example of Christian living, his students are not only better journalists but better citizens. Ellen Gibson, a former student, expressed her gratitude to him recently by writing:

"I'm more grateful to you for your editorial guidance along paths of better living than for any histories or concepts of journalism in the technical sense."

His regard for students is not limited to career planning, registration difficulties, or job placement. Knowing them by name, their backgrounds, and their ambitions, he maintains a warm, heart-felt interest in each.

Bernice Strawn, employed by the Department of State on the Latin-American Desk of the Office of International Information, recalls he would admonish her: "... calm down a little ...";

"... you're not eating enough ... or 'take things easy ...'" Who else but a father would take the time to write more than 900 letters to his "children in the service?"

Like children who fail to appreciate home until after they leave it, some students are unaware of his interest. But it is that interest, standing the test of time, which prompts such ex-students as Joe Cook of the Mission Times to wire him: "... wanted you to be the first to know; thanks for your guidance ..." when he was elected president of the National Editorial Association last summer.

The same devotion caused friends and ex-students to hold a dinner in his honor in March, 1949. As a token of appreciation for his thirty years of service, they established the Paul J. Thompson Appreciation Fund, which is used for such activities as bringing outstanding speakers to the campus.

Not only does this dignified father-to-his-students find time to discuss students' problems, but he is ever willing to render aid to the working newsman. Serving as chairman of the Faculty Group of the Journalism Committee, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, he helped plan the journalism internship program for Texas.

The plan, by which journalism students receive on-the-job training, is beneficial both to students



PAUL J. THOMPSON

thru, Waco. He received his master of business administration degree from the University in 1927.

Recognizing the need for professionally trained journalists, he gave up a newspaper career and entered the field of journalism education at the close of the war.

He began his teaching career at the University as an adjunct professor in advertising in 1919. In 1927, he was made chairman of the re-established Department of Journalism. Devoting a lifetime of service, he has seen the growth from a department to a School of Journalism which, in 1948, was rated by the American Council on Education for Journalism one of the top-ranking Schools of thirty-five in the nation.

Ever planning, ever alert to the needs of students and professional journalists, Mr. Thompson is working newspapermen in the form of refresher courses. Plans are also in the making to expand graduate and research work for students.

An active member of the University Methodist Church, Mr. Thompson also maintains membership in the Masonic Lodge, American Association of Teachers of Journalism, Texas Press Association, Kappa Tau Alpha, Sigma Delta Chi, and Alpha Delta Sigma.

Professor Paul J. Thompson To Be Honored By Texas Journalists At March 31 Banquet



*Paul J. Thompson, Professor of
Journalism*

PROFESSOR PAUL J. THOMPSON, completing thirty years as a teacher of journalism at the University of Texas, will be honored by Texas newspaper men and women at a dinner March 31 in the Crystal Ballroom, Driskill Hotel, Austin, Texas, as one of the opening events of this year's Round-Up Program.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Mr. Thompson came to the University of Texas in 1919 as an instructor in advertising. At the time of the disastrous cut in appropriations by Governor "Ma" Ferguson that wiped out the Journalism Department, he remained to teach advertising in the School of Business Administration. Since that time he has been the guiding influence that brought the Department of Journalism back into being and directed its growth until today it ranks in enrollment second or third in the country. This growth was climaxed this year with changing the department into a School of Journalism and with the announcement that a new Journalism Building will be included in the University's building program.

Invitations to the dinner have been mailed to approximately 900 graduates of the department—all whose present addresses can be ascertained. Invitations have also been extended to newspaper men and women over the state who have shown an interest in the University's journalism program. Any person who would like to attend the dinner will be welcome, stated Wayne C. Sellers, chairman of the Steering Committee. Tickets may be secured for \$2 by writing to the Paul J. Thompson Appreciation Fund, Room 815, Brown Building, Austin.

The idea for the appreciation dinner grew out of a dinner table conversation of a group of newspapermen at a press convention. One after the other, these men began recalling favors done for them and for the profession by Mr. Thompson, and finally they came around to the belief that such service should not pass unnoticed. Particularly, have ex-students shown an appreciation for the news-letter that Mr. Thompson laboriously compiled and circulated during the war years to help exes all over the world to keep up with each other.

Members of the Steering Committee for the dinner are as follows: Wayne C. Sellers, Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, Chairman; DeWitt Reddick, University of Texas, vice-chairman; George M. Clarke, Texas Safety Association, Austin, treasurer; Nathe Bagby, Leche and Leche, Dallas; Tommie Call, San Antonio Express-Evening News; Arthur Coleman, San Antonio Express-Evening News; Joe T. Cook, Mission Times; Charles K. Devell, Kilgore News Herald; Jack Dolph, United Press, Dallas; Jon Ford, San Antonio Express-Evening News; Lloyd Gregory, Houston Post; Bill Murphree, Southwestern Engraving Company, Ft. Worth; Kathleen Bland Smith, Houston Post; C. W. Tabb, Texas Newspaper Publishers Association, Dallas; Deskin Wells, Wellington Leader; and Richard West, The Dallas Morning News.

'Mr. Journalism' Never Forgotten

Tall, stern, gentlemanly, tenacious and compassionate, the late Paul J. Thompson ranked as "Mr. Journalism of Texas."

UT's School of Journalism owes its high status to Prof. Thompson more than to anyone else. He was associated with UT from 1919 until his death on May 22, 1964.

Thompson retired from teaching in 1959 and was proclaimed director emeritus of the school for which he had devoted most of his life. However, he continued to occupy his office in the journalism building. There he spent hours writing a book, "Professional Responsibilities in Journalism."

Throughout 45 years on the UT journalism faculty Professor Thompson never let a dream die. He realized his dreams of a full-fledged school of journalism created. Also the erection of a beautiful, modern journalism building and the establishment of a nationally-acclaimed Journalism Library. And finally the building of the Texas Student Publications to a position coveted by most colleges and universities in the land.

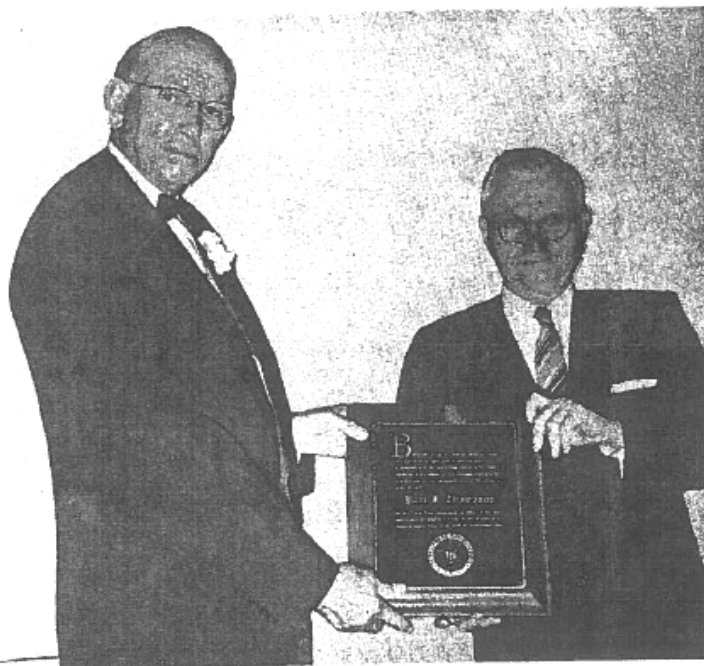
Under his guidance, the journalism curriculum at the University became one which was copied as a model for standards of excellence for national journalism school accreditation.

Professor Thompson's sedate personality and austere appearance were matched by a continuous compassion for each student and a good-humored twinkle which never left his eyes.

He loved to tell jokes and recount humorous incidents to his students during classes. He loved to be of help personally to those who sought his advice. At the same time he proved a constant champion of ethics in journalism.

"Paul J.," as he was affectionately known, was a one-man student employment bureau for those who needed jobs to stay in school. Upon their graduation, he wrote the kind of letters that got his students proper jobs on newspapers. He worked unceasingly for scholarships for students—and got them!

During World War II, Professor



PAUL J. THOMPSON, the late professor emeritus of the University of Texas School of Journalism, receives an engraved plaque from TPA Pres. Jake Smyth, Liberty Vindicator, at a 1959 dinner honoring the journalism educator upon his retirement in 1958. The plaque called attention to the great service Professor Thompson had rendered the press of Texas during his 45 years on the journalism faculty.

Thompson sent encouragement to ex-students in the service via a "letter from home" which he laboriously typed himself at night and sent to far-flung places in the world about every three months.

Under his direction, the department of journalism blossomed into a school of journalism—and he blossomed into a living legend among the students, ex-students and faculty.

To him came many honors, including the highly valued University of Missouri Award for Distinguished Service to Journalism in 1953 and election to the National Journalism Hall of Honor at Missouri in 1959.

At the time of his appointment as director emeritus of the School of Journalism, the Paul J. Thompson Appreciation Fund was established and a large dinner was given in his honor.

Born in Quincy, Ill., on September 26, 1890, Thompson received

a B.J. in 1914 from the University of Missouri. He earned his MA from the University of Texas in 1919.

Newspapers on which he worked prior to joining the UT faculty included several in Missouri, Iowa, Montana and Texarkana.

Thompson served a term as national president of the American Association of School and Department of Journalism.

To all who knew the kind, sincere, remarkable "Paul J.," he was, indeed, "Mr. Journalism" of this century. And his works shine as bright as the gold in the anniversary which also has honored him during its celebration year. —30

Gaceta de Texas, printed in Spanish in 1813 is the earliest newspaper recorded in Texas history. William Shaler and Jose Alvarez de Toledo published one or two issues of the newspaper, according to the Texas Almanac.

THE UNIVERSITY



four are retired

Paul J. Thompson, director emeritus of the School of Journalism, was honored December 6 by more than 450 former students, newsmen and friends attending a banquet in the Main Ballroom of the Texas Union.

Addressing an audience including newsmen which represented an estimated circulation of four million, Thompson predicted a trend toward larger journalism schools stressing research and graduate work.

The retired director urged the formation of a School of Journalism and Communications at The University as a means of competing with other top schools across the country. The proposed school would include journalism, drama, speech and radio and television.

"Mass communications," he said, "are the most powerful single influence in our society today. The role of a journalist in our society is as important as that of the teacher, the preacher or the doctor."

Thompson, one of the four heads of University Schools and colleges to retire recently, will continue to teach in the School of Journalism. Dr. DeWitt Reddick, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is acting director.



MR. AND MRS. PAUL J. THOMPSON—PLAQUES AND APPLAUSE

American May 25
Life Span Of 1964
AF Biography
Service to UT

The 45 years which Paul J. Thompson spent on the campus of the University of Texas in teaching, administration, research and writing, covered the development of one of the nation's major schools of journalism. He was one of the prime movers, the man with a vision, who lived to see it attained, of bringing the School of Journalism to high national recognition.

His active tenure as director of the school, formerly the department of journalism, saw the great step forward when the regents provided an adequate journalism building. Then, even as Paul Thompson in 1958 laid aside the administrative duties of his position, a broad development program for the school was added.

He came to the University in 1919, only a short time after the department of journalism had been created and had survived the political feuding of the James E. Ferguson administration in 1917. Thompson joined the original director, the former Lieutenant Governor Will H. Mayes, in building up the school, and then in 1927 succeeded as its director. After his retirement as director in 1958, he gave most of his time to the writing of a massive book on newspapering; and the manuscript had been completed only a week before a heart attack claimed his life.

Thompson's vision inspired the efforts of many; and those he worked with in earlier days carried on into the achievements of today, as for instance, Dr. DeWitt Reddick, who succeeded him as director of the school. His sincerity and seriousness of purpose guided many students to the successful beginnings of careers in journalism.

His was a useful life, the measure of which could be found only in his beneficial influence upon many thousands of young people could be added, and to that, added the contributing factor of his achievements in bringing the school to its status of present and future service to the young people of Texas.

IN MEMORIAM

PAUL JENNINGS THOMPSON

Paul Jennings Thompson was born in Quincy, Ill., September 26, 1890, one of three children of William F. and Calpernia (Oldenhage) Thompson. The family moved to Kahoka, Mo., where he lived most of his boyhood and youth.

While in high school, he worked in the afternoon and Saturdays for the Clark County Courier, the weekly newspaper published in Kahoka. He was graduated from high school in 1908, the year journalism was first established as an academic discipline in an American university, at the University of Missouri. Lacking the money to go to college, he worked two years as a full-time employee on the Clark County Courier. On his savings, he entered the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri in 1910, and was graduated in three and a half years, destined to be one the Missouri vanguard inspired by Dean Walter Williams to espouse the honor of the press and to spread journalism education across the nation.

After graduation, he was successively assistant editor of the Clark County Courier, editor of the Macon (Mo.) Republican, and a member of the advertising department of the Cedar Valley Times in Vinton, Iowa. During World War I, the Army turned him down twice for being too thin and underweight. The third time, he volunteered, he was accepted and sent to Camp McArthur near Waco, Texas. While there, he met and married Mrs. Bess Park (nee Gentry) of Waco. After the Armistice, he took his bride and young stepson, Adrian, to Billings, Montana, where he worked

on the Billings Gazette. A bitter cold winter, a wife homesick for Texas, and a recommendation by Dean Walter Williams soon brought him back to Texas to teach journalism.

In September, 1919, Paul Thompson joined the faculty of the School of Journalism at The University of Texas as adjunct professor. Although Journalism was housed in an unpainted wartime shack, the future of the five-year-old school looked promising. In 1925, however, it became an expendable pawn of Texas politics, when Governor Miriam A. Ferguson deleted the appropriation for Journalism along with that for Fine Arts in the biennium budget of The University of Texas.

With the abolishment of the School of Journalism, all members of the staff left the University except Paul Thompson. Feeling an obligation to the students already committed to a journalism degree, and deeply convinced that the honor of journalism education was on trial, he helped to work out a means of carrying on a sufficient program of courses in journalism and advertising under the aegis of the College of Business Administration to enable journalism majors to graduate with the B. J. degree during the next two years. While teaching more than a full load of courses, he also studied for a master's degree at the University, receiving the M.B.A. in August, 1927.

With the defeat of Governor Ferguson in the election of 1926, Mr. Thompson remained at the University to reorganize the teaching of journalism under a departmental status in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1927, he became Chairman of the new Department and was authorized to hire one additional faculty member. He managed, however, to have a teaching staff of four by persuading the head of the University News and

Information Bureau to teach two courses and the head of student publications to teach one course--with no extra pay the first year.

With profound dedication to his work, he moved the Department of Journalism forward by the gradual process of institution-building. One of the first building blocks shaped to fit the needs of the University community as well as the needs of the Department of Journalism was the remodeling of Texas Student Publications, Inc. Through his position on the board of directors, and drawing upon more than seven years of newspaper experience, an intimate working knowledge of student publications gained at Missouri, and his education in business administration, he brought about business procedures and a financial policy so sound that in time Texas Student Publications became a model to be copied at many colleges and universities in the nation.

A companion building block which he fashioned during the same period was the integration of laboratory work in reporting and editing courses with the news-editorial work of The Daily Texan, while at the same time achieving a separation of editorial control of the Texan from the Department of Journalism and the University administration. By placing responsibility for the content of the Texan in the hands of the volunteer staff of students, and at the same time assuring continuity of policy through a faculty-student board of directors, he implemented a policy which gave journalism students a daily working example of freedom of the press and the maturing experience of responsibility. The Texan became a student newspaper that in all-round quality ranked second to none in the country, and it provided a standard and a daily opportunity for journalism students to "learn by doing" and "to teach

one another." There was nothing unique in an association between student publications and journalism department, but the remarkably effective balance achieved between cooperation and independence, between responsibility and freedom, between direction and initiative was unique. The interaction of these ingredients made a better institution for journalism education.

In a decade when it was common for professional schools to pack curriculums with professional courses, Mr. Thompson aligned the journalism curriculum with the basic degree requirements of Arts and Sciences, establishing a proportion of three-fourths liberal arts to one-fourth professional education for the B. J. degree. This ratio became one of the standards of excellence for national journalism school accreditation some twenty years later. It was another solid building block that would endure in the institution Paul Thompson was creating.

A Journalism Library became his next objective. Working through the Main Library, he systematically accumulated the books and periodicals related to the new fields of journalism and advertising. He kept his personal card catalogue on journalism books and periodicals up to date, classified by subject, and complete. After years of such preparation, a gift of \$1000 from the student chapter of Theta Sigma Phi provided the necessary stimulant to get the Journalism Library started as a separate unit in the Journalism Building. In 1948, a visiting accreditation team rated the library as one of the best journalism collections in the country.

Although stern in the classroom and severe in grading, he had a compassion for students earning their own way and a sincere concern for student problems. Students sensed his austere manner was only

"classroom deep," and when in trouble, they sought his counsel. Once when a Ranger editor was put on enforced withdrawal, Mr. Thompson staged a "sit-in" at the Dean's office until the student was given a second chance. He advised one student to leave school because he was wasting his parents' money. When the student turned serious, he helped him organize a student advertising club. Today that student heads the advertising of one of America's largest corporations. The club which he organized in the University has become Alpha Delta Sigma, professional advertising fraternity. Through situations like these, he established close personal friendships with hundreds of students; and these friendships endured through the years after graduation.

When the depression of 1929-33 intensified student problems, Mr. Thompson intensified his efforts in their behalf. He became a one-man student employment bureau for journalism students who needed part-time jobs to stay in school. When the National Youth Administration allotted money for student aid to the University, he obtained more than a proportionate share of jobs for journalism students through proposals of worthwhile projects. On NYA financial aid, one student under Mr. Thompson's direction compiled the records of all sports events in the Southwest Conference--a project never before attempted. This work became the accepted record of the Conference and the basis of statistical comparison in Southwest sports reporting. Another student started a campus poll in the manner of the Gallup Poll; a year later he made it a national college poll. In time it became The Texas Poll--now in its 26th year serving the Texas press. To find jobs for graduating seniors, Mr. Thompson wrote the kind of letters that sold publishers, editors, and advertising managers on University of Texas journalism majors.

Although preoccupied with teaching, departmental duties, and student affairs, Mr. Thompson kept his own education updated with a budgeted program of reading. In the summers of 1930 and 1931, he did further graduate studies at Columbia University, and at the University of Chicago. He was promoted to full professor at The University of Texas in 1929, and made a member of the Graduate Faculty in 1931. Also, it was during this period that he was most active in the work of the University Methodist Church.

Central to Mr. Thompson's philosophy of life and work was an abiding concern for the integrity of the press. By his standards, a journalist who "boozed" was headed for ruin. A journalist who took a bribe was a blackguard and scoundrel. In J. 320, his course in Ethics of Journalism required of all journalism majors, he lectured vigorously on unbiased reporting, racial tolerance, and dangers of distortion of the news. On the press rests grave public responsibility, he insisted, and no man or woman should enter the profession who is unwilling to uphold the highest ideals of public service. Earnestly and sternly he charged his students with these solemn responsibilities. Thus he took the bright torch of press idealism from Dean Walter Williams and in turn placed it in the hands of hundreds of University of Texas graduates.

For those who knew him, Mr. Thompson's character was one of the constants in life, the same in classroom, office, social gathering on or off campus. Though always courteous and considerate, he never indulged in polite, meaningless praises merely to seem agreeable to others. At parties, dinners, and conventions, those who sought to engage him in light chitchat were likely to find themselves plunged into a discussion of a significant topic, and having no way to retreat.

In these ways, "Paul J." became a living legend among journalism students and a part of the conscience of each individual who took a course under him or who was associated with him for any considerable length of time.

In whatever organizational work Mr. Thompson participated, he was a stalwart. He was an ardent member of Sigma Delta Chi, men's journalism fraternity. He was founder and early president of the Southwestern Journalism Congress. He belonged and regularly attended the meetings of the Texas Press Association and of the South Texas Press Association, serving as Chairman of the Judges Committee for STPA newspaper contests continuously from 1930 to 1947. During the Christmas holiday period he dutifully attended the conventions of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism. This was the power organization in journalism education during the early decades. Through the discussions of the AASDJ, modern university education in journalism emerged as a strong academic discipline. In the record of these discussions, one can discern a small group of leaders, who, taking over after the pioneering work of Walter Williams at Missouri and W. G. Bleyer at Wisconsin, shaped the new journalism program. They were Ralph Casey at Minnesota, Frank Martin at Missouri, Grant Hyde at Wisconsin, Kenneth Olson at Northwestern, and Paul J. Thompson at The University of Texas.

With the disruptions of World War II and the entry of the United States into the war, Mr. Thompson struggled to keep the Department and student publications going, but he found time to make a singular contribution to the war effort. As hundreds of the "Journalism Family" scattered to training camps, battle fronts overseas, and on warships and airbases

around the world, Mr. Thompson determined to encourage them with a "letter from home." His mimeographed newsletter became an exchange by which exes in far-flung places maintained contact with each other as well as with the University. Mr. Thompson dedicated himself to seeking out his "boys" in the service. He laboriously typed his newsletters himself at night, making them at intervals of about three months, and each letter brought that warm feeling to the reader that somebody back home besides his family was concerned about him.

With the end of the war, Journalism at The University of Texas experienced its greatest growth. More than twenty-five years of unceasing attention to the job of institution-building brought a harvest of accomplishments and recognitions for Mr. Thompson. He was elected national president of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism for 1946-47. In this capacity and as a member of the AASDJ Council on Standards of Journalism, he became one of the designers of the national accreditation program in journalism education. Out of six hundred institutions teaching journalism, only forty-seven received accreditation in the first round of accreditation visits; one of these was the Department of Journalism at The University of Texas. With the accreditation, the University administration raised the Department of Journalism to the "School of Journalism" and Mr. Thompson's rank to "Director." The achievement called for a "Paul J. Thompson Appreciation Dinner and Fund." More than four hundred former students, University administrative heads, and representatives of the press attended the dinner, and the appreciation fund came to \$2,000, to be spent in whatever way Mr. Thompson deemed best for Journalism.

Honors were fine, but Paul Thompson had no intention of retiring or taking it easy. A year earlier he had written a 137-page report to the President of the University on "Recommendations for the Development of the School of Journalism," and he intended to carry them out.

By 1952, with the support of Regent David M. Warren, he had fashioned another "building block" for the institution he was creating. This was the new \$650,000 Journalism Building. Up to that time Journalism had always occupied the oldest building on the campus. In one way or another, however, Mr. Thompson had been planning for a new building ever since he became Chairman of the Department in 1927.

On May 1, 1953, Paul J. Thompson took a day off to be in Columbia, Mo., to receive from his alma mater the Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism. In the twenty-four years that the University of Missouri had made these annual awards, this was the first ever bestowed on a journalism educator.

It would be difficult to say what Mr. Thompson's major interests were for the next several years, because once started, he never lost interest in a project or goal. By the mid-1950's, the Newspaper seminars held regularly at the School of Journalism by Texas Daily Newspaper Association had become one of these flourishing on-going projects. On several occasions at the Seminar's final banquet, to which the Chancellor and other high University officials were invited, Mr. Thompson took much satisfaction in appraising the importance of the editors present in terms of the combined circulation of the newspapers they represented--usually well over two million. Scholarships for journalism students was another

goal which he pursued with notable success. The big "break-through" had come in 1952 when he persuaded Jesse H. Jones to make a grant of \$25,000 for journalism scholarships over a ten-year period. After that Mr. Thompson managed to add a few more each year.

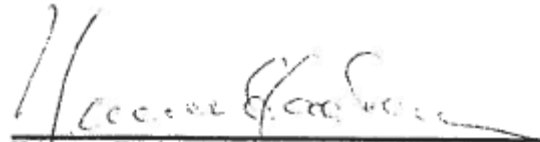
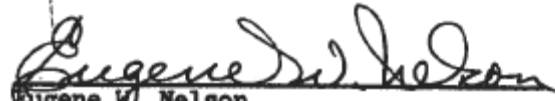
At the end of the spring semester of 1958, he retired from the directorship to full-time teaching, and was named Director Emeritus. The new Regential rule of mandatory retirement from administrative positions at age 65 had surprised the twelve faculty veterans affected that year, but the transfer of leadership in Journalism went smoothly. The School's affairs were in business-like order. He recommended strongly that his successor be the next oldest faculty member in years of service. On his last day as Director, Mr. Thompson talked with his successor at length about various matters, ending the conversation with words to this effect: "Many years ago I selected you to be on this faculty, and we have been close friends through the years. Now if people should see me coming in and out of your office, they would likely think I was trying to continue to dominate the School of Journalism through using you to carry out my wishes. Therefore, I will not enter your office and I will not give any advice about the School." He kept his word. He never once set foot in the Director's office again. Likewise, he ventured no suggestions or advice unless vigorously requested.

With his retirement a spontaneous movement to honor Mr. Thompson came from Journalism exes, faculty members, and the Texas press. On December 5 at a gala banquet in the Union Building more than five hundred

friends hailed him as "Mr. Journalism." The Daily Texan published a special six-page "Thompson Section." The main address was entitled "Forty Years on the Forty Acres."

Mr. Thompson retired from teaching in the fall of 1959 to devote full time to the writing of a book on the responsibilities of the press. He came to his office in the Journalism Building regularly, completing a daily quota of work on the book. Each chapter was carefully projected weeks in advance of writing. Several mild to moderate heart attacks slowed him down, but after each he returned determinedly to his work on the book. His family and a few of his closest friends knew that he was in a race against time, but the matter was never discussed. By spring of 1964 the book was completed--a typed manuscript of 1500 pages. He had kept a resolution made many years earlier to write a comprehensive book on the ethics of journalism--one worthy of the significance of the subject. He entitled the book "Professional Responsibilities in Journalism," and for the dedication he wrote: "Dedicated to the memory of Walter Williams, whose ideals gave birth to my interest in Ethics of Journalism." He was in the midst of negotiations by correspondence with a publisher when he died at his home the night of May 22, 1964.

"Paul J.", a dedicated man, left the fruits of his purposeful life as a heritage to those who knew him, and to others who, though unacquainted with the man, will benefit by his life.


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